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## **Five Vermont High Schools Placed on the College Board's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> Honor Roll**

**MONTPELIER** – Bellows Free Academy (BFA) St. Albans, Harwood UHSD, North Country UHS, Stowe High School and U-32 are being honored by the College Board with placement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll for simultaneously increasing access to [Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup>](#) (AP) course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's AP program because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work.

"BFA is honored, but not surprised, to be a recipient of this award," said BFA Principal Dennis Hill. "All of our teachers work diligently to prepare students for academic excellence. Our AP teachers are dedicated to their craft, committed to their students and make learning an exciting and enriching experience. I am proud of our teachers and students for their hard work and exemplary performance."

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community. Many districts are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to expand access and improve student performance simultaneously.

"The award speaks to how the community and teachers here really believe that all students can access these courses and do well," Harwood Co-Principal Amy Rex said. "The teachers are committed to making sure every student is successful. They'll do whatever it takes."

The College Board's AP Program<sup>®</sup> enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school.

"This recognition truly reflects the dedication and commitment of our school community to AP course work," said North Country Principal Bill Rivard. "It also reinforces our mission statement: to provide a secure educational environment in which all students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, pursue academic and career excellence, and become citizens who respect diversity, value lifelong learning and make healthy choices."

By taking [AP courses](#) – some 34 subjects are offered through the College Board’s AP Program - students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments and see many sides of an issue, skills that prepare students for college and beyond.

“I’m proud of the school and proud of the preparation and rigor our teachers bring to our AP courses,” said Stowe Principal Jeff Maher. “We constantly seek AP professional development to stay current with content and skills. I’m also proud of our guidance department for encouraging and increasing student participation.”

Each AP teacher’s syllabus is evaluated and approved by faculty from some of the nation’s leading colleges and universities, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant credit, advanced placement or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores — more than 3,600 institutions worldwide annually receive AP scores.

“We were thrilled to learn that we earned this honor,” said U-32 Principal Keith Gerritt. “We have worked really hard over the last three years to increase our AP offerings and to encourage students taking the courses to participate in the AP exams.”

Statewide, Vermont schools are working to provide students more challenging academic opportunities to prepare them for success in college and the workforce.

“AP courses provide challenging and engaging college-level classes to Vermont’s high school students, which I see as a win-win opportunity for Vermont students, Vermont schools and ultimately for our State,” said Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca. “It is important for our students to be interested and passionate about learning, to see their classes as a vehicle to achieving their career goals.”

The complete 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found [online](#). Learn more about the College Board here: <http://www.collegeboard.org/>.

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